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| APPLICATION NO.                                 | FILING DATE | FIRST NAMED INVENTOR | ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.     | CONFIRMATION NO. |
|---|-------------|----------------------|-------------------------|------------------|
| 10/801,609                                      | 03/17/2004  | Ryo Hirai            | 040083                  | 4172             |
| 23850   | 7590        | 03/07/2006           | EXAMINER                |                  |
| ARMSTRONG, KRATZ, QUINTOS, HANSON & BROOKS, LLP |             |                      | BRUENJES, CHRISTOPHER P |                  |
| 1725 K STREET, NW                               |             |                      | ART UNIT                | PAPER NUMBER     |
| SUITE 1000                                      |             |                      |                         | 1772             |
| WASHINGTON, DC 20006                            |             |                      |                         |                  |

DATE MAILED: 03/07/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

|                              |                         |                     |  |
|------------------------------|-------------------------|---------------------|--|
| <b>Office Action Summary</b> | <b>Application No.</b>  | <b>Applicant(s)</b> |  |
|                              | 10/801,609              | HIRAI ET AL.        |  |
|                              | <b>Examiner</b>         | <b>Art Unit</b>     |  |
|                              | Christopher P. Bruenjes | 1772                |  |

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

#### Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

#### Status

- 1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on 17 March 2004.
- 2a) This action is FINAL.                    2b) This action is non-final.
- 3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

#### Disposition of Claims

- 4) Claim(s) 1-8 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are allowed.
- 6) Claim(s) 1-8 is/are rejected.
- 7) Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are objected to.
- 8) Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

#### Application Papers

- 9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) The drawing(s) filed on \_\_\_\_\_ is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.  
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).  
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

#### Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) All    b) Some \* c) None of:
  1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received..
  2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.
  3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

\* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

#### Attachment(s)

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)   | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)                     |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)  | Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____.   |
| 3) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)<br>Paper No(s)/Mail Date <u>20040317, 20041112</u> . | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
|   | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____.                                   |

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**DETAILED ACTION**

***Specification***

1. Applicant is reminded of the proper language and format for an abstract of the disclosure.

The abstract should be in narrative form and generally limited to a single paragraph on a separate sheet within the range of 50 to 150 words. It is important that the abstract not exceed 150 words in length since the space provided for the abstract on the computer tape used by the printer is limited. The form and legal phraseology often used in patent claims, such as "means" and "said," should be avoided. The abstract should describe the disclosure sufficiently to assist readers in deciding whether there is a need for consulting the full patent text for details.

The language should be clear and concise and should not repeat information given in the title. It should avoid using phrases which can be implied, such as, "The disclosure concerns," "The disclosure defined by this invention," "The disclosure describes," etc.

2. The abstract of the disclosure is objected to because the abstract contains legal phraseology such as "comprises" in line 4 of the abstract. Correction is required. See MPEP § 608.01(b).

***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102***

3. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless -

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(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

4. Claims 1-8 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Ikeda et al (US 2003/0050405 A1).

Regarding claims 1-2, Ikeda et al teach a hose material (see abstract). Note the limitation "for a fuel cell system" is a functional limitation and receives little patentable weight in an article claim. Articles are defined by what it is, not what it does. Therefore, for a reference to teach a functional limitation, the article of the reference must meet the structural limitations and have the ability to perform the function or intended use. In this case, the hose of Ikeda et al has the ability to be used in a fuel cell system because it meets the structural limitations and it is a hose. The hose of Ikeda et al comprises an ethylene-propylene copolymer or ethylene propylene-diene terpolymer (see abstract, p.3, paragraph 37, and p.4, paragraph 47). The hose further comprises carbon black and in particular Asahi No. 52 produced by Asahi Carbon Co, Ltd. (p.3, paragraph 37). Asahi No. 52 carbon black inherently has a toluene discoloration of 40% and a DBP adsorption amount of 130ml/100g as specified in Applicant's specification on page 14, lines 4-8. Regarding claims 3-4, the carbon black is present in an amount of 100 parts by weight

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based on 100 parts by weight of the ethylene-propylene copolymer (p.3, paragraph 37). Regarding claims 5-8, the hose material is used to form a hose (see abstract and p.5, paragraph 68).

**Conclusion**

5. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure. Ikemoto et al (US 2003/0178081); Kaul et al (USPN 5,879,650); Nakano et al (USPN 6,171,671).

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Christopher P. Bruenjes whose telephone number is 571-272-1489. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday thru Friday from 8:00am-4:30pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Harold Pyon can be reached on 571-272-1498. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

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Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

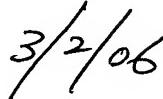
Christopher P Bruenjes

Examiner

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CPB  
CPB  
March 2, 2006

  
HAROLD PYON  
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER  
1772

3/2/06